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PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No: 15568.15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

John Derek Guest )  
Serial No. 10/660,099 ) Art Unit  
Filing Date: September 11, 2003 ) 3679  
Confirmation No.: 6876 )  
For: IMPROVEMENT IN OR RELATING TO TUBE )  
COUPLINGS )



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TRANSMITTAL FOR FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is a First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, which includes the following statements, if any, required variously by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- Statement of relevance of selected cited references not in the English language which are not translated.
  - Statement that selected cited references are substantially cumulative of an enclosed or previously submitted reference.
  - Statement that selected cited references were previously cited by or submitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

A. Additional Materials Required Due to Content of Information Disclosure Statement

Transmitted are the following documents in addition to the First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement as required variously under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- Form PTO-1449 listing 51 references submitted for consideration.
- A copy of the foreign references listed on the Form PTO-1449.
- English translations of one (1) of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 which are not in the English language.
- Copies of the following documents from the prosecution of a previous, related application:
  - Form PTO-1449 AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT; and
  - Form PTO-892

B. Additional Materials Required Due to Timing of Filing of Information Disclosure Statement

The transmitted First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within one (1) of the following four (4) time periods:

- I.  Prior to the later of either three (3) months following the filing date or the mailing of a first Office Action. Accordingly, no materials other than those listed above are enclosed.
- II.  Following the latter of either three (3) months following the filing date or the mailing of a first Office Action, but before the mailing of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, to secure consideration thereof, one (1) of the following is also enclosed:
  - Promptness Certification; or
  - Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_ constituting the submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- III.  After the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Accordingly, in order to secure consideration thereof, each of the following are also enclosed:
  - Promptness Certificate;
  - Petition for Consideration; and

— Check No. in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

IV. — After payment of the Issue Fee. Accordingly, in order to secure consideration thereof, each of the following are also enclosed:

— Petition to Withdraw from Issue; and

— Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ constituting the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

C. Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of or any deficiency in the following fees associated with this communication, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

- Any fee required in relation to filing of this letter or any documents transmitted therewith.
- The submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) in the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that any Promptness Certificate submitted meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).
- The submission fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- The petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i)(1).

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



DANA L. TARGREN  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 37,246  
Customer No. 022913



PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No: 15568.15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

John Derek Guest	)	
Serial No.	10/660,099	) Art Unit
Filing Date:	September 11, 2003	) 3679
Confirmation No.:	6876	)
For:	IMPROVEMENT IN OR RELATING TO TUBE COUPLINGS	)

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.8

I hereby certify that the following documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

- Transmittal for First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (3 pages)
- First Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages)
- Form PTO-1449 listing 51 references (4 pages)
- A copy of each of the foreign references listed on the Form PTO-1449
- Postcard

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

DANA L. TANGREN  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 37,246  
Customer No. 022913



PATENT APPLICATION  
Docket No: 15568.15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	)
	)
John Derek Guest	)
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Serial No.: 10/660,099	) Art Unit
	) 3679
Confirmation No.: 6876	)
	)
Filed: September 11, 2003	)
	)
For: IMPROVEMENT IN OR RELATING TO	)
TUBE COUPLINGS	)

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that any of these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed list of references is disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed except for US patent applications.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c), all English translations within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) of each non-English reference, if any, are also enclosed.

Statement of Relevance of References Listed  
Unaccompanied by English Translation  
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)

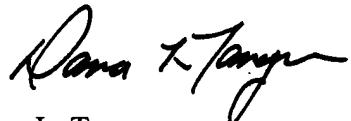
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), the following concise explanation of the relevance of each listed reference that is not in the English language and unaccompanied by a translation into English is provided.

EP 1 087 168 A1 discloses a coupling which consists of a tubular sleeve (1) with one end (3) connected to another component in a pressurized fluid circuit, such as another pipe, a tank or a pump, and its other end (4) designed to receive a first pipe (C), and equipped with a seal and end stop. The sleeve also contains a cuff (7) which is elastically deformable, at least in an axial direction, and acts as a seal. One end (7.2) of the cuff has an inner annular shoulder (14) forming an end stop for the pipe (C), and a cylindrical inner surface adjacent to the shoulder which fits against the outer surface of the pipe, being of slightly smaller diameter than it. The other end of the cuff has an outer shoulder (11) which fixes it inside the sleeve.

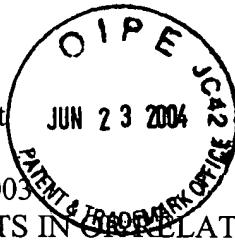
French document 2,227,483 discloses an invention which relates to a connector for fluids, such as semi-rigid pipes. The connector includes a body member, a collar received in the body member, a clamp with pipe engaging jaws at least one guide for guiding the connector into the pipe and an abutment member for limiting movement of the clamp.

Dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



Dana L. Tangren  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 37,246  
Customer No. 022913



Applicant: John Derek Guest  
 Serial No.: 10/660,099  
 Filing Date: September 11, 2003  
 For: IMPROVEMENTS IN COUPLINGS RELATED TO TUBE COUPLINGS

Sheet 1 of 4  
 Confirmation No.: 6876  
 Att'y Docket No.: 15568.15  
 Group: 3679

### FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANT

#### U.S. Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
____ 1	2,452,277	10/1948	Woodling
____ 2	2,640,716	06/1953	Bigelow
____ 3	2,953,398	09/1960	Haugen et al.
____ 4	3,250,550	05/1966	Lyon
____ 5	3,334,661	08/1967	Milette
____ 6	3,454,290	07/1969	Tairraz
____ 7	3,552,781	01/1971	Helland
____ 8	3,679,241	07/1972	Hoffmann
____ 9	3,747,964	07/1973	Nilsen, Jr.
____ 10	3,834,742	09/1974	McPhillips
____ 11	3,909,046	09/1975	Legris
____ 12	3,989,283	11/1976	Pepper
____ 13	4,005,883	02/1977	Guest
____ 14	4,025,093	05/1977	Leczycki
____ 15	4,062,572	12/1977	Davis
____ 16	4,136,897	01/1979	Haluch
____ 17	4,188,051	02/1980	Burge
____ 18	4,253,686	03/1981	Aitken et al.
____ 19	4,298,222	11/1981	Davies
____ 20	4,305,606	12/1981	Legris
____ 21	4,309,050	01/1982	Legris
____ 22	4,335,908	06/1982	Burge

Examiner:

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
____ 23	4,613,158	09/1986	Ekman
____ 24	4,637,636	01/1987	Guest
____ 25	4,655,159	04/1987	McMills
____ 26	4,867,489	09/1989	Patel
____ 27	4,993,755	02/1991	Johnston
____ 28	5,121,949	06/1992	Reese
____ 29	5,150,924	09/1992	Yokomatsu et al.
____ 30	5,181,751	01/1993	Kitamura
____ 31	5,217,261	06/1993	DeWitt et al.
____ 32	5,466,019	11/1995	Komolrochanapron
____ 33	5,593,186	01/1997	Harris
____ 34	5,607,190	09/2001	Exandier et al.
____ 35	5,957,509	09/1999	Komolrochanapron
____ 36	6,056,326	05/2000	Guest
____ 37	6,095,572	08/2000	Ford et al.
____ 38	6,193,239	02/2001	Fukano et al.
____ 39	6,293,595	09/2001	Marc et al.
____ 40	2002/0109353	08/2002	Guest
____ 41	2003/0006610	01/2003	Werth
____ 42	2003/0085568	05/2003	Guest

Examiner:

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Foreign Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Country or Patent Office</u>	<u>Translation</u>
____ 43	0 945 662 A2	09/29/1999	EPO	N/A
____ 44	1 087 168 A1	03/28/2001	EPO	No
____ 45	1 310 720 A2	05/14/2003	EPO	N/A
____ 46	1 359 362 A1	11/05/2003	EPO	N/A
____ 47	1 359 363 A2	11/05/2003	EPO	N/A
____ 48	2 227 483	11/22/1974	France	No
____ 49	2 394 736	01/12/1979	France	Yes
____ 50	1 520 742	08/09/1978	United Kingdom	N/A
____ 51	2 167 147 A	05/21/1986	United Kingdom	N/A

Other Documents

(including author, title, pertinent pages, etc.)

Examiner  
Initial\*

Examiner:

Date Considered:

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.